NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 9, 1998

Field Museum hosts "Health and Global Genetic Diversity" symposium

On the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* on September 30, under the bold headline "Field Museum clings to strand of DNA project," staff writer Jeremy Manier reported on the "Health and Global Human Genetic Diversity" symposium held at the Museum September 24-26 that was organized by **John Edward Terrell** (Department of Anthropology), and Anthropology Research Associate Sloan Williams (University of Illinois, Chicago) with major funding from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and with major help from **Sheila Wheatley** (Anthropology), Adjunct Curator **Rob Welsch** (Anthropology) and **Beth Adams** (Education).

The 17 invited participants and other guests from the Midwest and as far away as Florida, Maine, and California reviewed current thought and practice on how multi-disciplinary studies of our genetic diversity can develop comparable data sets, share information, and contribute to public health. Their assignment was to evaluate how effectively research strategies can be defined that will lead directly to significant advances in understanding the etiology of disease, specific public health recommendations, and better information on human genetic diversity.

There seemed to be general consensus at the workshop that (1) research designed to be intelligent, careful, considerate, and ethical should focus on genetics and health (not merely on population genetics and the prehistory of human migrations); (2) there is little need for the controversial Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP) since genetics information can be gathered as part of health-related projects; (3) what we should be focusing on instead is figuring out how to share complex datasets, perhaps following the lead of modern geographers who have had to develop huge geographic information systems [GIS] for local, state, national, and international governments and organizations; and (4) there is little need to create a HGDP research center outside Washington, D.C. (as some advocates of the HGDP are now proposing) since the world already has a number of fine research centers where people are experienced in public outreach and ethics as well as in the care and handling of specimens & data (hint: they are called museums).

The workshop continues on the web at the Chicago Initiative's new Website kindly donated and developed by one of the participants, Dr. Kevin Kelly. Check it out at **http://bioanth.org/Chicago/Default.htm**.

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 12

Public Events/Special Events

"Dinosaurs and More"
• Monday, 10 a.m. in LH1 & 2, Clrm A

Primitive Art Society
• Monday, 7:30 p.m. in LH1

Chicago Cycle
• Tuesday, 5 p.m. Clrm C

University of Chicago Committee
• Wednesday, 1 p.m. in Clrm C

Columbia College Teacher Workshop
• Thursday, 4:30 p.m. in Clrm C

Swedish Folk Art Opening
• Saturday, 10 a.m. in Clrms A, B, C

Group Overnight
• Saturday, 5:45 p.m. - Sunday a.m.

Inside Ancient Egypt - Oriental Institute
• Sunday 9 a.m. in LH1

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Lecture Series
• Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
• Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m.

Volunteer Training Sessions
• Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Summit on Africa, teamwork a great hit!!

The Midwest Regional Summit on Africa, held here at the Museum and around the city on September 23 - 27, was a forum for discussion of the United States' diplomatic and economic relations with Africa. Eight meetings have been scheduled throughout the country, leading up to the October 1999 National Summit on Africa in Washington, D.C. Other discussion topics included education, peace, quality of life, and human rights. In addition to accommodating delegate events, from meetings to break out rooms to lunch in Stanley Field Hall, the Museum provided parallel programming for visitors and schools, from Wednesday through Saturday. The Education Department worked with the National Summit on Africa office to bring in African and African-American storytellers, demonstrators, dancers, drummers and performers, as well as two of our own scientists, **Bruce Patterson** and **Julian Kerbis**, to help feature and support this international meeting. The Field Museum was highly complemented as a great conference space and for our wonderful programming!

However, without the terrific support of all Museum staff, we would not have been able to create such a successful event and accommodate the National Summit on Africa staff with all their requests. The Education Department would like to send out a big "thank you" to Housekeeping, A/V, Security, Maintenance, Engineering, Visitor Services, Exhibits, Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Special Events, and all the individuals who pulled together to make this event a success!! Thanks, and we hope to continue to work together as a happy team on all our future endeavors!!

Submitted by **Erelah Ajao-Spears**, **Johanna Krynytzky**, and **Kristie Webber**

Note: Due to an editorial oversight, this item did not appear in the October 2 issue of the *Natural News*. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. – **R.P.**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Anthropology welcomes new Department Chair and Curator

The division of Academic Affairs and the Department of Anthropology are pleased to announce that Professor **Gary Feinman**, from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, has accepted the position of Department Chair and Curator. Dr. Feinman will be joining the Museum in September 1999.

Dr. Feinman is one of the leading archaeologists in the country. He has done research in the Southwestern United States, China, and the Oaxaca Valley of Mexico. His primary interest is in understanding the patterns of societal growth, particularly the emergence, rise and collapse of state societies. Among his numerous publications are over ten books, including *Images of the Past, Pre-Columbian World Systems* and *Ancient Mesoamerica: A Comparison of Change in Three Regions.* In addition to his scholarly activities, Gary serves as editor of *Latin American Antiquity* and the *Journal of Archaeological Research*. Gary is married to Linda Nicholas, also an archaeologist. They plan to live in Chicago near the Museum.

Website celebrates one-year anniversary and welcomes new staff

The Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to welcome **Allyson Meyer** as Web Content Specialist. Ally received her Masters in Biomedical Visualization from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Scientific Illustration from the University of Michigan. She brings strong Web design and animation skills to this new position. As a Field Museum intern Ally designed and helped develop the "Butterflies at The Field Museum" and "The Anthropology Collections" sites. She has designed a site for "Sue" and is working with Web Manager **Lori Breslauer** (Academic Affairs) to ready the site for launch by mid-October. Ally may be reached at ext. 734 and may be found upstairs in Computing.

The Field Museum's revised Website celebrated its first anniversary October 2. Over the past year we've watched our usage climb from an average of 10,000 users per month to nearly 40,000. (A statistics program, WebTrends, allows us to track individual users. "Hits" are not an accurate measure, since every image on a page counts as a hit. If you pull up one page with 15 images, that's at least 15 hits – not too useful.) We've also watched the average user session increase from four minutes to more than nine. This has come about as more and more Web visitors use our site to plan a visit to the Museum, to review our job postings, or to browse our specialty sites, especially "The Lions of Tsavo" and "Butterflies at The Field Museum."

WELCOME!

Staff who began their employment in September

Tressa Bidelman	Anthropology	Intern
Kate Cauley	Exhibits	Preparator
Elizabeth Cruger	Education	Overnight Supervisor
Amanda Flood	Exhibits	Preparator
Steven Furnett	Exhibits	Preparator
Amanda Geppert	Development	Events Coordinator
Mario Hernandez	Stores	Sales Clerk
Joseph Hu	Exhibits	Preparator
Avis James	Envir. &Conserv. Prog.	Post-Doc Research Asst.
John Lotenero	Public Relations	Mngr,Tourism/Promotions
John-Henry Marshall	Exhibits	Preparator
Jaculyn Ross	Education	Secretary
Alexander Sherman	President's Office	Assistant
Allison Smith	Geology	Vertebrate Fossil Preparator
Taylor St. John	Stores	Stock Assistant
Mentee Teah	Audio/Visual	A/V Technician
Bill Watt	Auxilary Services	Administrative Assistant

WELCOME BACK!

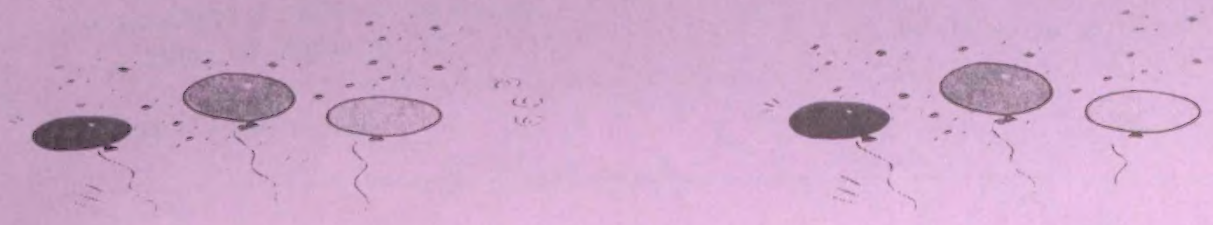
Staff who were rehired during September

Kimberly Smith Singleton	Exhibits	Sr. Coord. Temp Exhibits
Ingrid Fauci	Zoology	Verification Technician

CONGRATULATIONS!

Staff who were promoted or changed positions in September

	From	To
Rich Faron	Assoc. Dir. Exh. Dev/Exhibits	Dir. Exhibit Dev./Exhibits
Cheryl Giznik	Intern Supervisor/Museum Campus	Proj Coord/Museum Campus
Melissa Hilton	Dir. Econ and Admin/Museum Affairs	Dir. Admin and Comm/MA
Mary Johnson	Merchandising Asst/Stores	Admin. Asst/Zoology
Rebecca Margolin	Intern/Exhibits	Asst. Developer/Exhibits
Emma Moskalevskaya	Admin. Asst./Exhibits	Developer/Exhibits
Paula Ramos	Asst. Floor Mngr/Education	Intern/Education
Nicole Royal	Butterfly Floor Manager/Education	Events Assistant/Education
William Ryan	Asst. Floor Mngr/Education	Intern/Education
Sophia Shaw	Mngr. Temp. Exh./Exhibits	Dir. Exhibits/Exhibits
Mia Shillace	Coord. Temp. Exh./Exhibits	Sr. Coord.Temp. Exh/Exhibit



GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES!

Staff who ended employment in September

Kathryn Bellovich	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Jacqueline Crowder	Audio Visual	A/V Maintenance Coord
Elizabeth Garibay	Exhibits	Asst. Developer
Jason Grandt	Exhibits	3-D Designer
Geraldine Havernek	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Sandra Hernandez	Stores	Stock Assistant
Charles Holland	Development	Director, Annual Giving
Rose Jasso	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Jane Long	ECP	Mighty Acorns Coord.
Matthew Majer	Exhibits	Production Shop Supervisor
Sherri Miller	Security	Security Officer
David Pollock	Zoology/Insects	Curatorial Assistant
Maria Pozos	Visitor Services	Visitor Service Rep
Laura Sappelsa	Botany	Research Technician
John Slapcinsky	Zoology/Invertebrates	Collections Manager
Julie Thomas	Exhibits	Director, Exhibits

THANK YOU!

Interns and Summer Employees leaving in September

Barbara Edwards	Museum Campus	Rabiah Morning-Parker	Museum Campus
Nicholas Eichenseer	Museum Campus	Paula Perkins	Exhibits
Natale Fuller	Museum Campus	Jennifer Romero	Museum Campus
Irene Gomez	Museum Campus	Elizabeth Styles	Museum Campus
Christina Halperin	Anthropology	Jason Tugman	Museum Campus
Malinda Martinez	Museum Campus	Uwimana Tyehimba	Visitor Services
Maribelle Martinez	Museum Campus		

Correction from August Listings:
Jacqueline Adams is the Administrative Coordinator for Project Millenium

Drivers alert: traffic advisory in effect for Sunday

A traffic advisory will be in effect on Sunday, October 11 from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. as a result of the LaSalle Banks Chicago Marathon (to obtain an on-line map, visit the 1998 Marathon Homepage at **www.chicagomarathon.com**, or call CDOT at (312) 744-3517 and they can fax one to you). A number of city streets that make up the race course, which extends from Pershing Road on the south, Belmont Avenue on the north, Ashland Avenue on the west, and Lake Michigan on the east, will be closed temporarily as the runners pass. In addition, segments of Columbus Drive, Balbo Drive, and Jackson Drive in Grant Park will be closed the entire weekend of October 10-11 to accommodate the race set-up, start, and finish.

Submitted by **Diane White**

The Museum has had a Web presence since 1993 (the early days of the World Wide Web). The revised Website was built on a site first designed by the late Steve Borysewicz (Exhibits) and Mary Rasmussen (University of Illinois at Chicago Biomedical Visualization Laboratory). The new site was developed in-house through the team effort of Web Manager Lori Breslauer, Webmaster **Brad Loetel** (Academic Affairs) and Designer **David Quednau** (Graphic Design), with assistance from the Computer Services staff, who installed and configured the Web server hardware and software. Brad will be holding open discussions of the Museum's Website and Intranet on October 27 and 29. Look for details in a future issue of the *Natural News*.

College teachers get inside look at Field Museum

Fifty college professors from the "Project Kaleidoscope" organization received a special behind-the-scenes tour of The Field Museum on September 19 as part of their national "Faculty for the 21st Century" conference held in Arlington Heights. Funded by the Exxon Foundation, "F21" consists of science faculty at early stages in their careers; the organization has a particular interest in improving pedagogy, connections between research and teaching, and relations between higher education and K-12 education. The group was welcomed by **Mark Alvey** (Academic Affairs), who provided a brief history of the Museum and its collections and research efforts, and **Dan Brinkmeier** (Education) who sketched our educational mission and gave a brief overview of the Harris Loan Center. From Harris the group was led in three directions by Mark, Dan, and **Jim Holstein** (Geology). By the end of their 90-minute tour the professors had been treated to a fascinating trip through the Anthropology collections with the inimitable **Lanet Jarrett** (Anthropology), an inside look the Bird Collection and Prep Lab hosted, with his usual blend of charm and erudition, by **Dave Willard** (Zoology – Birds), and close-up view of "Sue" and McDonald's Fossil Prep Lab with the always engaging **Bob Masek** (Geology). The next stop for the professors that day was a reception/cruise embarking from Navy Pier, and although it was a beautiful day to be on the lake, several of the guests said they wished that they could stay at the Museum and see more of the wonders it has to offer.

Tribal representatives, artists review Chitimacha basket collection

The Tribal Research Coordinator, Cultural Education Director, and two master basketmakers from the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana visited the Anthropology Department in August to review our collection of Chitimacha baskets. They recently sent the Anthropology Department detailed descriptions of the baskets, including materials and traditional design names, information that will be added to the collections records for use by future researchers. This is another example of the good relations the Museum is building with Native Americans by providing access to its collections.

Donnelly garners prize at botanical artists exhibit

Geology illustrator **Marlene Hill Donnelly**'s watercolor painting of Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-in-the-Pulpit) was among four entries receiving awards in the American Society of Botanical Artists Midwest Regional Exhibit, which ran at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, in September and early October. Congratulations, Marlene!

Lunchtime seminar series

Dr. Domenico Parisi of the Institute of Psychology, National Research Council, Rome, spoke to us on October 6. His subject was "Artificial Life and the Evolution of Human Societies." He began by discussing computer models that attempt to mimic life-like processes and how similar models are being used to analyze cultural change. After discussing a model that tries to replicate the expansion of the Assyrian empire after 1350 BC, Dr. Parisi moved to the more general problem of how we might model more complex societies with central distributive systems and how they developed. These models, sharing many attributes with biological computer modeling, offer new ways of exploring the many factors contributing to cultural evolution.

Next week's talk will be given by Dr. Jean-Yves DuBuisson of the Department of Paleobotany at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris. He is a specialist in the filmy ferns and the title of his talk will be "Evolution of epiphytism and dwarfism in filmy ferns." Please join us in the Zoology classroom at noon on Tuesday, October 13.

Submitted by **Bill Burger** (Botany)

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Budgeting questions?

Lisa Wodis will be out of the office until Tuesday, October 20. If you have questions about your departmental budget worksheets, please call **Dana Brink** at ext. 366 or **Erica Kelly** at ext. 584. A schedule for the 1999 budgeting process was included in last week's *Natural News*; as specified, worksheet packets are due back to the Finance Department from all Vice Presidents on Friday, October 23.

Coming Soon: Another "Field Good" Brown Bag Seminar

Our Employee Assistance Program company will present another brown bag seminar for staff and volunteers on conflict resolution and negotiating skills needed in both your personal and professional life. Please join us on Thursday, October 22 from noon until 1 p.m. in Dining Room C/D.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

FAN MAIL

Dear **John Flynn**,

Jose Quintans and I have just gone through the Spring Quarter Evaluations, and I wanted to personally congratulate you on the superb job that you have done. We will plan to celebrate your success in every appropriate venue and use you and your course design as a model for improving a number of our offerings that have been rated on the other end of the bell shape curve. In fact, I am going to suggest to Jose that he consider asking you if you might not interact with some selected course faculty to transmit whatever it is you do so well in your course preparation and delivery. More on that later, for now, congratulations.

Sincerely,
Glenn D. Steele, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Richard T. Crane Professor
Division of the Biological Sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine
The University of Chicago

Dear **President McCarter**,

On behalf of the United Neighborhood Organization, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for hosting over 11,000 parents and children for our first *Take 10!* family outing of the 1998-1999 school year on Saturday, September 19, 1998.

We were extremely impressed with your staff for its willing and timely help. During the planning and execution stages of this event, your staff aided our efforts tremendously. Parents and kids were thrilled to visit the Museum Campus. Judging from our families' reactions, the Campus is a welcome addition to the lakefront and to the Museums.

We hope that same enthusiasm shown by our parents and kids becomes the cornerstone of our continuing working relationship. We look forward to working with you in the future. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Regards,
Juan Rangel
President & Executive Director
United Neighborhood Organization of Chicago

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!